

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Colorado [Mr. CAMPBELL] proposes an amendment numbered 923. On page 71, lines 13 to 18, move Sec. 514 to page 93 and insert after the period on line 3.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, this amendment has been cleared by the minority.

I ask for its immediate adoption.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate on the amendment?

If not, the question is on agreeing to the amendment of the Senator from Colorado.

The amendment (No. 923) was agreed to.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote by which the amendment was agreed to.

Mr. KOHL. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 924

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Colorado [Mr. CAMPBELL] proposes an amendment numbered 924.

Page 49, strike all on lines 11-13, and on line 14, strike the words "the private sector for" and insert in lieu thereof the words "the General Accounting Office shall conduct".

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, this amendment has also been cleared by the minority, and I ask for its immediate acceptance.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate on the amendment? If not, the question is on agreeing to the amendment of the Senator from Colorado.

The amendment (No. 924) was agreed to.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote by which the amendment was agreed to.

Mr. KOHL. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Vermont is recognized.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent I be allowed to speak as if in morning business for a period not to exceed 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FLOODING IN VERMONT

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, 3 days ago, the heavens opened over

northern Vermont. Torrential rains sent floodwaters ripping through communities and over farmland, tearing bridges from their foundations, shredding roads and stranding hundreds of people. The floods that swept through sections of northern Vermont were the worst in over 70 years. Up to 6 inches of rain fell overnight. Flash floods turned quiet rivers and streams into raging waterways in the early morning darkness, disrupting the peaceful existence of thousands of Vermonters.

Yesterday, I spoke with several town officials and residents who were hit the hardest. They gave me firsthand accounts of the damage to their communities. In some towns, bridges were swept away, roads were washed out, pavements were ripped up, cars and trucks were overturned, perhaps were destroyed, trees were uprooted, homes were lifted from their foundations and filled with water.

Monday night's torrential rains were followed by a day of heroism—neighbors, rescue workers, families and friends came together in Vermont's close communities. In Eden, 300 Cub Scouts were evacuated after the bridge into their camp was washed away. In Cambridge, rescue workers saved a 14-year-old girl and her dog who were stranded on a washed out roadway. In Montgomery, 11 people were pulled from a mobile home roof and carried to safety in a bucket loader moments before the trailer was swept away. Volunteers made 1,000 sandwiches for rescue workers, and neighbors opened their homes to those who were driven from their own.

There are many courageous stories and events that took place during the crisis, and knowing Vermonters like I do, I know there were many more heroic stories long after the rivers had receded and the officials had left town.

Mr. President, I am proud of and commend the Vermonters who united during this time of disaster to save lives and communities. The damage has been substantial and much work still needs to be done. I stand ready in every way to assist, if possible, the people of Vermont to help rebuild their communities and lives. I know our Governor has surveyed the situation and he has made recommendations to the President for Federal help. I know the congressional delegation from Vermont is doing all it can to make sure the lives that have been disrupted are put back as close to normal as possible as soon as possible.

Mr. President, I thank you for this time. I yield the floor and make a point of order that a quorum is not present.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HUTCHINSON). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TREASURY AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I recognize and appreciate the hard work of the Appropriations Committee staff in putting together this detailed legislation. Members' attention to detail is easily apparent in the thoroughness with which they have presented the committee's recommendations.

There are many good provisions in this bill, particularly the language which would continue the limitations on courthouse construction that are designed to ensure lower costs and standard designs. However, there are many aspects of this bill which cause me serious concern.

First, this bill increases the funding for these agencies by \$1.1 billion over last year's level. Frankly, I believe it is ill-advised for the Senate to increase spending for these Federal agencies at a time when we are struggling to reach agreement on tax relief and spending bills and balancing the budget.

I am sorry to say that this bill and report contain numerous earmarks of new funds for particular States, as well as language designed to ensure the continued flow of Federal funds into certain States.

Let me just mention a few of those projects.

The earmark of an additional \$3 million for Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Assessment Center.

The earmark of \$2.5 million for Globe Trade and Research Program at the Montana World Trade Center, which is described in the report as a one-time appropriation to support the center's research and information dissemination activities on "issues designed to explore, define, and measure contributions to economic globalization."

Mr. President, let me run that by you again. That is \$2.5 million—2.5 million taxpayer dollars—to support the Montana World Trade Center's research and information dissemination activities on issues designed to explore, define, and measure contributions to economic globalization.

A prohibition on IRS field support reorganization in Aberdeen, SD, until the IRS toll-free help line reaches an 80 percent service level.

A prohibition on reducing the number of IRS criminal investigators in Wisconsin below the 1996 level.

A requirement to establish the port of Kodiak, AK, as a port of entry and requiring U.S. Customs Service personnel in Anchorage to serve the Kodiak port of entry.

The earmark of \$4 million for repairs and restoration of the Truman Library in Independence, MO, and \$3 million earmarked for repairs to the Lyndon Baines Johnson Presidential Library in Austin, TX, and, very disturbing, various protectionist Buy-America provisions, which are in sections 509, 510 and 511.